to check reckless use of water is to be taken by the State Governments. To enable the States and Union Territories to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of groundwater development and management, Ministry of Water Resources has circulated a Model Bill. The State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Union Territory of Lakshadweep and Pondicherry have enacted appropriate legislation.

(d) Several measures for development and management of water resources are undertaken by the respective State Governments which includes creation of storages, restoration of water bodies, rain water harvesting, artificial recharge to ground water and adoption of better management practices etc. Storage capacity of about 213 BCM has been created so far. As per present assessment, the total estimated storage capacity of the various projects under construction is about 76 BCM. Further, the State Governments have identified various other schemes for investigation and planning and the estimated storage for such schemes is about 108 BCM. Government of India is providing central assistance to the State Governments through various schemes/programmes, such as Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP); Command Area Development and Water Management (CADWM) Programme National Project for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies directly linked to Agriculture etc. The Government of India also encourages rainwater harvesting and recharge to groundwater for conservation of water.

Government has also constituted an Advisory Council on Artificial Recharge to Ground Water under the Chairmanship of Union Minister of Water Resources with the main objective to popularize the concept of artificial recharge to ground water among all stakeholders. The Central Ground Water Board has circulated Manual/Guidelines on Artificial Recharge to Ground Water to the States/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes, to check the declining trend of ground water levels and to conserve the rain water.

Water conservation

2715. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government while appreciating the effective water conservation steps taken by Rajasthan Government has commended that such steps be taken in all the other States and the country as a whole;

(b) if so, the details of the measures so commended; and

(c) the steps so far taken to implement Government's directions?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) to (c) Water being a State subject, necessary measures for water

conservation are undertaken by the respective State Governments. However, Government of India encourages water conservation including rain water harvesting and recharge to ground water. Water conservation campaign has been launched keeping in view the various target groups like youth and children, women, farmers and villagers, policy and opinion makers. Publicity through print media, telecasting of spots on the television, broadcasting messages on radio, holding of seminar, workshops, conferences etc., have been undertaken for the purpose. A demonstrative scheme on "Rain Water Harvesting and Artificial Recharge to Ground Water" has also been taken up by the Central Ground Water Board.

The Ministry of Water Resources has requested all the State Governments to take up necessary measures for rain water harvesting and artificial recharge to ground water. However, the choice of area specific measures to be adopted for water conservation including rain water harvesting and artificial recharge to ground water governed by various factors including topography, hydrology, hydrogeology, land and soil characteristic etc. Ministry of water Resources has not written to other State Governments to adopt the steps which have been taken by Government of Rajasthan.

Irrigation projects in Rajasthan

2716. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of various major, minor and medium irrigation projects under construction, as on date, in Rajasthan, indicating the capacity, and estimated cost, cost escalation and time overrun, if any, project-wise;

(b) the steps being taken to ensure timely completion of these projects;

(c) the details of irrigation schemes approved by the Centre, for Rajasthan;

(d) the details of funds sanctioned/released by Centre during the last three years, scheme-wise, till date;

(e) the number of schemes completed within scheduled time limit and the number of schemes which are still pending; and

(f) the achievements/benefits accrued therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) There are 4 major (excluding Gurgaon Canal Project and Ratanpura Distributary of Sidhmukh Project), 4 Medium and 3 ERM projects spilled over from IX Plan to X Plan in Rajasthan. Besides the above, 5 Major and 15 Medium new Irrigation Projects have been taken up by the State Govt, in X Plan. The details of the projects indicating their original and revised estimated cost, irrigation potential creation etc. upto March, 2006 are given in the Statement (See below).